1	2
Karnataka	6
Tamil Nadu	3
Kerala	1
Orissa	4
Nagaland	1
TOTAL:	99

Deeonrol of Sugar from PDS

4567. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to decontrol sugar from PDS;

.(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study to know whether sugar industry and sugarcane growers would be benefited by this move; and

(c) whether Government are aware that in Karnataka thousand of tonnes of sugar has been stored in godowns for sale; if so, in what way Government can help to clear the stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Government has decided to effect complete decontrol of sugar during 2002-03 financial year after the operationalisation of future/forward trading in sugar. The Government has taken the said decision in the light of the recommendation of the High Powered Committee headed by Shri B.B. Mahajan, the retired Food Secretary. The Committee studied

the entire gamut of sugar economy. The proposed decontrol of sugar is intended to remove the restrictions on sale of sugar.

(c) The Government is aware of the high level of sugar stocks held by sugar factories in the country including the factories located in the State of Karnataka. As intimated by the State Government of Karnataka, about 9.08 lakh MTs of sugar is lying in the various godowns of Karnataka, worth about Rs. 1174 crores as on 31.10.2001. In order to reduce sugar stocks, the Government is, *inter alia,* encouraging the export of sugar. The following measures have been taken in this regard:—

(i) Levy exemption has been given on the quantity of sugar exported.

(ii) The quantity of sugar exported is treated as advance free sale release and is adjusted after a period of 18^{m} months from the date of release.

(iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) at the rate of 5% value of f.o.b. price of sugar was allowed, which has now been reduced to 4%.

(iv) Quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed.

(v) Requirement of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate from the Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA)^ has been dispensed with effect from 1.4.2001.

(vi) State Governments of the major sugar producing States have been requested to give remission in purchase tax on sugarcane on the quantity of sugar exported.

The sugar factories have been provided temporary relief by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity of unlifted levy sugar stocks as free sale sugar in the open market. During the

sugar season 2000-01, out of 1,62,631 MTs of unlifted levy sugar stocks so far permitted to be sold as free sale sugar, the share of sugar factories in Karnataka works out to be 48,803.6 MTs.

Advance releases of free sale sugar have been made, subject to adjustment and 5% levy obligations, to needy sugar mills to enattfe them td clear cane price dues of the farmers and the reduce their stocks. Besides, the factories have been allowed to sell upto 10% of their quarterly quota over and above their normal quota to clear their cane price dues.

Revival of Militancy in Punjab

4568. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has embarked upon a plan for revival of militancy in Punjab in a big way, as per recent press reports;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has entrusted Laskare-e-Toiba with the task of training men from Babar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation to use weapons and infiltration into India via Jammu region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard ♦hereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Pakistan has continued with its futile attempts to undermine India's security and territorial integrity through the sponsorship of cross border terrorism, and attempts to subvert sections of our people.

(G) Government will take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country, and to resist Gross border terrorism until it is decisively crushed.